

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4353

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic 400 North Howard Street  
and/or common Country Style Fried Chicken

**2. Location**

street & number 400 N. Howard Street ☐ not for publication  
city, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of ☐ congressional district Seventh  
state Maryland ☐ county Baltimore

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Sara Billig  
street & number 3737 Clarks Lane telephone no.:  
city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21215

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, Baltimore City Courthouse SEB1949  
street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 folio 464  
city, town Baltimore state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title  
date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local  
pository for survey records  
city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-4353

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This painted brick commercial building sits on the northwest corner of N. Howard and W. Mulberry streets. The four-story, shed-roof building dates to the fourth quarter of the 19th century. It is three bays wide on Howard Street and thirteen bays wide on Mulberry Street. The first and second stories have been altered, but the upper stories retain the late Victorian ornamental brickwork. The Howard Street frontage is 25' and the depth is 120'.

The glazed entrance door is on the two-story clipped corner. A metal tag nailed to the door frame reads "1950 City Franchise Tax," indicating a pre-1950 date of remodelling. The corners of the entrance are rounded and covered in mock wood panelling. The Howard Street first story has been substantially altered. It is filled with large plate glass windows of 20th-century date. The wall surrounds are covered with mock wood panelling. A band of this panelling runs between the first and second stories. A fabric awning hangs over the first story.

The second story windows have been replaced with large plate glass panes, but the original cast iron front remains. Narrow iron pilasters with recessed panels divide the wall into four bays. The fenestration pattern is a large window on the clipped corner, a narrow window, a wide window, and a narrow window. An original projecting metal cornice runs between the second and third stories. A second fabric awning is suspended over the second story.

The third and fourth stories overhang the entrance. Where the floor of the third story projects out over the second story, the facing is covered with pressed tin. The third and fourth stories have a three bay pattern with an alternating rhythm of one 1/1 sash in the first bay, a pair of two 1/1 sash windows in the second, and one 1/1 sash in the third.

The third-story windows have brick arched lintels. The window opening are recessed into the face of the wall. The brick wall between the bays are ornamented by a vertical strip of recessed brick with corbelled tops.

The fourth-story windows have brick splayed jack arches with a toothed brick pattern above. The toothed brick pattern of the first and third bay consists of alternating projecting brick headers set in a three-dimensional checkerboard pattern. The second bay pattern consists of a double course of bricks laid in an angled projecting toothed pattern. These windows are also sunk into the wall, but they are narrower than those of the third story. The width of the wall recess is maintained, however, by infilling the fourth-story openings with brick. The brick wall between the bays and at the building's edges are ornamented by a vertical strip of recessed brick with corbelled tops.

B-4353  
400 North Howard Street  
Baltimore, MD  
Section 7 Description  
7.1

The cornice is ornately executed with three-dimensional, geometric brick work, with combinations of corbelled brick pendants, angled mouse-toothed brick bands and rectangular projecting blocks.

The south wall faces Mulberry Street. The facade of the 13-bay building is much simpler. The first three bays of the first and second stories are identical to the treatment of the Howard Street facade. The upper stories and the remaining ten bays are unornamented.

The first story windows are bricked in. The windows in the second, third, and fourth stories (with the exception of the three-bay, two story "facade") are 1/1 sash with a two-brick soldier course. The slope of the shed roof creates an attic space towards the Howard Street facade. Attic windows (now bricked in) are located in the first seven bays along the Mulberry Street wall. The spacing between the thirteen window bays is not always equidistant. The first six bays are evenly spaced, then there is a larger space between the seventh, and then a return to even spacing between bays eight through thirteen.

The back (west) wall of the building runs back to the alley (State Street). The back is divided into two bays with 1/1 sash in each bay. Stories one through three have two-brick soldier courses. The fourth story has three-brick soldier courses.

The east wall is mostly blocked by the partywall neighbor. A row of small windows, however, provide some ventilation and light.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. B-4353

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This circa 1875 building is a good example of the Victorian two-part commercial block. While the first story has been altered, the upper stories reveal the popular high Victorian design aesthetic of embellished facades. The brick work, evident in between the windows, in the toothed lintels and in the scalloped corbelled cornice, are much more ornate than the brick work in early Victorian facades. Similarly, the variety of window treatments among stories is another indication of the high Victorian taste for variety. These trends are recorded by architectural historian Richard Longstreth, who writes that the high Victorian commercial blocks "are more ornate. The cornice is accentuated, serving as an elaborate terminus to the whole building. Windows are frequently embellished by decorative surrounds or caps. Ornamental framing may occur in the form of a stringcourse or cornice between each floor of the upper zone, with differing vertical treatments on the sides. Underlying all such changes was a new taste for decoration and the increasing desire to have the buildings themselves perceived as ornaments to the community."<sup>1</sup>

In contrast to the embellished Howard Street facade, the Mulberry Street facade is plain and utilitarian in design. This indicates the primacy of Howard Street in the hierarchy of cross streets. Nonetheless, the corner location is taken advantage of by using the clipped corner entrance which draws in from both streets.

The circa 1950 alterations to the first story created a "modern" commercial design aesthetic. The use of plate glass windows modernized the appearance of the street-level facade into a floor-to-ceiling display window. This remodelling represents one of the last periods of commercial vitality on the street. Very little facade remodelling occurred after this decade.

<sup>1</sup> Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, p. 31.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4353

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037date December 17, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Streettelephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimorestate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
301-514-7600

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA**

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:  
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930  
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture  
Economics

Resource Type:  
Building

Historic Environment:  
Urban

Historic Function and Use:  
Commercial

Known Design Source:  
None

## REVISIONS

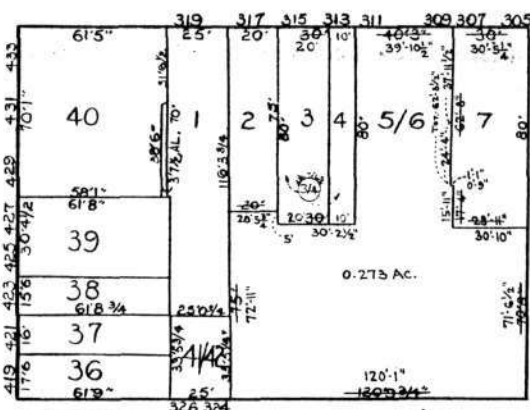
LOT 3/4 DIV PER DEED C.S.H. 9830  
 LOT 21/35 PER O.O.; C.S.H. 77-044  
 LOTS 5/6 & 7 COR. PER DEEDS; C.S.H. 61-254.

530/548

W. FRANKLIN

ST.

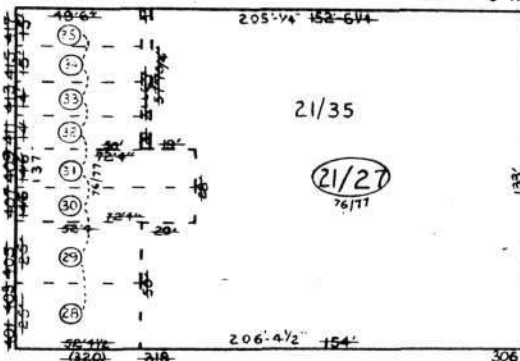
ST.



PIERCE

ST.

N. EUTAW



W. MULBERRY

ST.

ST.

N. HOWARD

563

577

## NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER. IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 4 SECTION 2  
 BLOCK 562

SCALE 1"=50' DATE NOV. 1966

CED BY P.W.

TERED BY P.W.

CKED BY







B-4353

400 N Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, SE elevation

1/2



B-4353

400 N Howard St (rear)

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Rear elevation, west (far right)

2/2